

§Appl. No. 09/996,808  
Amdt. dated August 12, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of May 13, 2003

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended)** An air filter comprising:

an annular filter element disposed about an axis and having an annular filter media with first and second ends closed by first and second annular end caps;

a an annular gasket seated within the first end of the filter media in an initial snap fit with the first end cap, the annular gasket comprising:

a an annular unitary body of resilient material having a radially extending flange portion for overlying a radially extending portion of the end cap and having an axially extending body portion coaxial with the axis of the filter element;

an annular outwardly facing groove in the axially extending body portion of the unitary body for receiving an axially extending portion of the end cap therein;

a an internally facing sealing surface for engaging an air outlet pipe, and

a tapered portion on the unitary body extending from the groove in a direction away from the radial flange, the tapered portion having a surface tapering in a direction away from the flange and groove and toward the axis.

**Claim 2 (Originally filed)** The air filter of claim 1 further including a circular end plate made of metal or plastic adhered to the second end of the filter media.

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**Claim 3 (Originally filed)** The air filter of claim 2 wherein the circular end plate has a pull tab thereon for pulling the air filter away from the air outlet pipe.

**Claim 4 (Originally filed)** The air filter of claim 1 wherein the annular filter media is disposed between inner and outer liners of perforated metal.

**Claim 5 (Originally filed)** The air filter of claim 1 wherein the gasket is retained on the first end of the filter element by adhesive after having been secured with an initial snap fit.

**Claim 6 (Originally filed)** The air filter of claim 1 wherein the gasket is made of foam rubber.

**Claim 7 (Originally filed)** The air filter of claim 1 wherein the internally facing sealing surface includes a plurality of annular ribs for engaging the outlet pipe.

**Claim 8 (Originally filed)** The air filter of claim 1 wherein the gasket is made of rubber or polyurethane.